GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1420
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2007
GAP BETWEEN RURAL AND URBAN EDUCATION
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government proposes to bridge the gap in the rural-urban divide in the field of education;

(b) if so, the comparative details thereof during the last three years; and

(c) the funds allocated and utilised for the purpose, rural and urban area-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 (as modified in 1992) provides for a National System of Education, which implies that up to a given level, all students, irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex, have access to education of a comparable quality. It also accords priority for improvement of the standard of education at all levels for children living in rural and urban areas.

The NPE recognizes that the rural areas, with poor infra structure services, will not get the benefit of trained and educated youth, unless rural-urban disparities are reduced and determined measures are taken to promote diversification and dispersal of employment opportunities. Pursuant to this, a large number of schemes/programmes are under various stages of implementation, which predominantly address the educational needs of rural areas including technical education.

The schemes/programmes include Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Mid-day Meal Scheme (MDM), Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) Scheme, Manila Samakhya and the scheme of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) in Schools. 546 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas have been opened in rural areas specifically in order to provide quality education to rural children. There are other institutions such as Gandhigram Rural Institute and the National Council of Rural Institutes which address issues of reducing disparities in education. Year wise details are not maintained of differences in educational attainment between rural and urban areas. However, literacy percentage may be used as a yardstick, The rural-urban literacy gap has decreased by 7.21 percentage points in the last decade, as can be seen from the following table;-

RURAL-URBAN LITERACY RATES 1991-2001

YEAR	MALE	FEMALE	PERSONS
1991(7 years and above)			
Rural	57.87	30.62	44.69
Urban	81.09	64.05	73.08
Total	64.13	39.29	52.21
2001 (7 years and above)			
Rural	70.70	46.13	58.74
Urban	86.27	72.86	79.92
Total	75.26	53.67	64.84

Source: Census of India

(c): Funds under various Schemes/Programmes of the Ministry are not allocated on rural-urban basis.